

MARINE SAFETY BULLETIN

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RECREATIONAL AND FISHING VESSEL OPERATIONS RESTRICTED

Security zones are in place for two Mississippi River locations within metropolitan New Orleans and Baton Rouge. In New Orleans, all recreational and fishing vessels are prohibited from operating between Mile Marker (MM) 88, at the entrance to Algiers Canal, to MM 115 at Kenner Bend Anchorage. In Baton Rouge, recreational and fishing vessels are prohibited from operating from MM 228 at the entrance to the Port Allen alternate route, to MM 235, at Wilkerson Point. Entry or movement into these zones is prohibited to all recreational vessels (including personal water craft) and fishing vessels unless specifically authorized by the Coast Guard Captain of the Port New Orleans. The two zones are effective from 8:00 a.m. on March 20, 2002, until 8:00 p.m. on April 2, 2003. Boaters and fishermen are asked to call (504) 589-2780 to request a transit. Willful violation of a security zone is punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both. All persons and vessels within a security zone shall comply with the instructions of designated on-scene U.S. Coast Guard patrol personnel.

Additionally, the Coast Guard has increased vessel, aircraft, and vehicular patrols along the Mississippi River corridor from Baton Rouge, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico. Patrols are random and are conducted day and night.

Small boats, pleasure craft and recreational fishermen are encouraged to avoid sailing in the vicinity of cruise ships, cruise ship terminals, and waterfront facilities such as oil refineries, chemical plants, and nuclear power facilities for the next several weeks.

The Coast Guard is encouraging the public to participate in Homeland Security efforts. Two 24-hour telephone numbers are available to report suspicious activity: the Coast Guard National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 and the Louisiana State Office of Homeland Security at 1-800-434-8007.